

Welcome to
Courage to Lead Introductory Retreat
A program of ONEplace

At this retreat, you gather with a group of colleagues for a different type of conversation.

This conversation is a Circle of Trust® and is guided by two principles

1. Everyone has an inner teacher
2. Inner work requires solitude and community

Every person has access to an inner source of truth, named in various wisdom traditions as identity, true self, heart, spirit or soul. The inner teacher is a source of guidance and strength that helps us find our way through life's complexities and challenges. Circles of trust give people a chance to listen to this source, learn from it and discover its guidance for their work and their lives.

New leadership is needed for new times, but it will not come from finding more wily ways to manipulate the external world. It will come as we who serve and lead find the courage to take an inner journey toward both our shadows and light – a journey that, faithfully pursued, will take us beyond ourselves to become healers of a wounded world. *Parker J. Palmer*

In circles of trust we make space for the solitude that allows us to learn from within, while supporting that solitude with the resources of community. Participants take an inner journey in community where we learn how to evoke and challenge each other without being judgmental, directive or invasive. Led by a facilitator, we observe certain Boundary Markers:

- ***What is offered in the circle is by invitation, not demand.*** No one will force you to speak! During this session, do whatever your inner teacher calls for, and know that you do it with our support. You know your needs better than we do.
- ***Speak your truth in ways that respect other people's truth.*** Each of us sees the world in our own way. Speaking one's truth in a Circle of Trust® does not mean interpreting, correcting or debating what others say. Simply speak from your center to the center of the circle, using "I" statements, trusting others to find their own understanding.
- ***Trust and learn from the silence.*** Silence is a gift in our noisy world, and, more than that, silence is a way of knowing in itself. Treat silence as a member of the group. After someone has spoken, take time to let their words sink in. Avoid the temptation to immediately fill the space with more words.
- ***Attend to your inner teacher.*** We learn from others, of course. But as we explore poems, stories, questions and silence in a Circle of Trust®, we have a special opportunity to learn from within. So pay close attention to your own reactions and responses, to your most important teacher.
- ***Observe confidentiality.*** Nothing said in a Circle of Trust® will ever be repeated outside the circle.

Participants return to their homes, workplaces and communities taking important resources with them:

1. Greater access to the inner teacher and a new depth of self-knowledge
2. A clearer sense of guidance for their personal and professional lives
3. A resolve to live closer to their core commitments
4. Principles and practices from the Circle of Trust® approach that can be applied to their daily lives

(for more information on the Circle of Trust® visit www.couragerenewal.org)

Retreat Details

Wed June 24 6:30 pm thru Fri June 26 12 noon; Transformations Spirituality Center, 3427 Gull Road
You will be provided a single room for Wed and Thurs nights plus four meals (Thurs breakfast, lunch & dinner; Fri breakfast). As a pilot project of ONEplace, this retreat is offered free of charge to participants

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Application to Participate

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ MI Zip _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Supervisor Signature _____

The supervisor's signature indicates his/her recommendation for you to attend plus releases you to attend as part of your professional development.

Statement of Interest *(please share your reasons for wishing to participate in the retreat and, if you have any previous Circle of Trust® experience, please tell us about that.)*